

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0397
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13156

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), GW, US
SUBJECT: US-FRG RELATIONS AFTER THE CARTER VISIT

1. THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT HAS PRODUCED A STRONGLY POSITIVE REACTION IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THE OCCASIONAL TENDENCY OF THE PAST YEAR TO ECHO THE U.S. PRESS IN
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BLENDING CRITICISM AND CATTINESS IN COMMENT ON GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND ON THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT, IS CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENT SO FAR. INSTEAD, THERE HAS BEEN A REDISCOVERY OF AMERICA'S CLOSENESS AND COMMITMENT TO EUROPE AND OF THE COMPATIBILITY OF BOTH THE OBJECTIVES AND STYLES OF THE AMERICAN AND GERMAN PARTNERS IN GENERAL. THERE HAS BEEN

PRAISE AND ENTHUSIASM FOR THE PRESIDENT.

2. TO SOME DEGREE, THIS IS A PASSING HIGH, A SPONTANEOUS REACTION BY BOTH MEDIA AND PUBLIC THAT THE AMERICAN LEADER WHO VISITED THE FRG AND BERLIN ACQUITTED HIMSELF SPLENDIDLY AND COMMUNICATED WITH THE GERMAN PEOPLE IN A WAY THAT NO OTHER VISITORS HAVE CHOSEN. THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BERLIN, AND IN PARTICULAR THE TOWN MEETING, FASCINATED GERMANS. THEY RECALLED TO MIND THE BASIC FACT THAT AMERICA AND BERLIN ENJOY A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP, THAT AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAS A MAGIC APPEAL IN THAT CITY, AND THAT AMERICANS CONDUCT THEIR POLITICAL DIALOGUE IN WAYS THAT EUROPEANS FIND AS FASCINATING AS PECULIAR.

3. MOREOVER, THE PRESIDENT'S READINESS AND ABILITY TO MASTER THE COMPLEX MATERIAL REQUIRED FOR A BERLIN TOWN MEETING ARE SEEN AS SIGNS NOT ONLY OF COMPETENCE BUT OF GENUINE DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND THE GERMANS AND THEIR PROBLEMS. NOTHING COULD BE MORE REASSURING.

4. OVER THE COMING DAYS AND WEEKS, PART OF THE GLOW WILL FADE. COMMENTARY WILL REFOCUS ON ISSUES. AS USUAL, IT WILL SEEK OUT DIVISIONS FOR ATTENTION. AN IMPORTANT WATERSHED MAY HAVE BEEN REACHED, HOWEVER. THE IMAGE OF THE U.S. IS EXCELLENT IN THE FRG TODAY,
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AS IS THE PERSONAL IMAGE OF THE PRESIDENT, AND THERE IS ALSO THE TRUISM OF THE REDISCOVERED CLOSENESS OF THE U.S. AND FRG AS PARTNERS. WE SUSPECT THAT BOTH THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC FIGURES WILL BE CAREFUL TO AVOID MIXING GIBES OR CYNICISM WITH COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE, AND INDEED WILL FOR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 13156

SOME TIME TO COME BE LEERY OF HIGHLIGHTING DIFFERENCES
IN THE FACE OF A GENERAL GERMAN FEELING OF PARTNERSHIP
WITH AMERICA.

5. FROM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S VANTAGE, A PARALLEL
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PROCESS HAS BEEN THE ECLIPSE OF THE IDEA THAT HE AND
THE PRESIDENT DO NOT GET ALONG, AND IN PARTICULAR THAT
(AS CHARGED BY HIS OPPONENTS) THIS IS LARGELY SCHMIDT'S
FAULT. SCHMIDT, WHO TODAY BASKS AS THE MAN WHO GETS
ALONG WITH CARTERAS WELL AS A SUCCESSFUL SUMMIT HOST,
IS SOMEWHAT LESS VULNERABLE POLITICALLY AS A RESULT.
IN THIS RESPECT, WE HAVE DONE HIM A POLITICAL FAVOR, AND
IT WILL BE IN HIS PERSONAL POLITICAL INTERESTS TO KEEP
THE ATMOSPHERE OF RELATIONS EXCELLENT IN
THE FUTURE. HE MUST USE IT, IF CAREFULLY, TO GAIN SUPPORT
FOR THE CONCESSIONS HE MADE AT THE SUMMIT.

6. AT THE SAME TIME, GIVEN OPPOSITION LEADER KOHL'S
HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN LATE JUNE,

THERE IS NO SENSE HERE THAT WE ARE PLAYING FAVORITES IN DOMESTIC POLITICS. RATHER, THERE IS AN UNUSUAL SENSE OF U.S. INTEREST IN THE FRG AS A WHOLE.

7. OF COURSE, THE POLITICAL REALITY CREATED BY THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT NOT ONLY SUPPORTS SCHMIDT BUT ALSO CONSTRAINS HIM. IT WILL BE EVEN HARDER FOR HIM TO OPPOSE AMERICAN POSITIONS, AT LEAST FOR SOME TIME, THAN IT WAS BEFORE THE SUMMIT.

8. WE ARE, THUS, IN A HIGHLY FAVORABLE PERIOD IN US-FRG RELATIONS, WHERE THE ONUS FOR A CHANGE IS ON THE "NAY-SAYERS" TO PROVE THEIR CASE, AND WHERE CYNICISM ABOUT THE U.S. IS AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT SIMPLY UNFASHIONABLE. THIS IS A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT, ONE MANY GERMAN AND OTHER COMMENTATORS DID NOT ENVISAGE. EVEN IF IT ERODES, AS THE IMPACT OF ANY VISIT DOES OVER TIME, IT REPRESENTS A REAL POLITICAL ASSET IN OUR DEALINGS HERE. MOREOVER, MOST SENIOR FIGURES HERE HAVE AN

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INTEREST IN KEEPING THE POSITIVE AURA ALIVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN13156
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780294-1217
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780750/aaaabpof.tel
Line Count: 197
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 99e5f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1979377
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-FRG RELATIONS AFTER THE CARTER VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, GE, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/99e5f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014